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NEWS RELEASE

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Kansas Secure and Fair Elections (SAFE) Act Signed by Governor

TOPEKA (April 18, 2011) – Today Kansas Governor Sam Brownback signed the Kansas Secure and Fair Elections (SAFE) Act into law. "With Governor Brownback's signature, Kansas has now accomplished something truly extraordinary," said Kansas Secretary of State Kris W. Kobach. "No other state in the union does as much to secure the integrity of the voting process."

Kobach unveiled HB 2067 (the SAFE Act), which addresses voter concerns about election fraud, a week after taking office as the 31st Kansas Secretary of State. It passed by a vote of 111-11 in the House of Representatives and 36-3 in the Senate. Democrats and Republicans alike overwhelmingly supported the sound measures spelled out in the Act. While Republicans voted almost unanimously for the SAFE Act, 75% of Senate Democrats and 70% of House Democrats also voted for the SAFE Act.

The core provisions of the SAFE Act are these:

- (1) newly-registered Kansas voters must prove U.S. citizenship when registering to vote:
- (2) voters must show photographic identification when casting a vote in person; and
- (3) voters must have their signature verified and provide a full Kansas driver's license or non-driver ID number when voting by mail.

"It is fundamental to the integrity of our republic that voter registration must be limited only to U.S. citizens. And every effort must be made to protect each legitimate vote from being cancelled by fraudulent voter activity," said Kobach. "It is my hope that other states will enact the Kansas model. Voter fraud is a national problem, and Kansas has offered a solution that will protect every state that adopts it."